

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /103 W
----- 122655

O 200830 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0006

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DA NANG IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAN THO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

USDAO SAIGON IMMEDIATE

USDEL FRANCE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0084

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: MINH ALERTS ARVN COMMANDERS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP MOPS VC

1. MR 3 CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH HAS NOTIFIED HIS THREE ARVN COMMANDERS AND THE PROVINCE CHIEFS OF PHUOC LONG, BINH DUONG AND TAY NINH PROVINCES TO PUT THEIR TROOPS ON ALERT FOR POSSIBLE COMMUNIST ATTACKS. HE TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT HE BELIEVES THE COMMUNISTS WILL REACT TO PRESIDENT NIXON' S SUSPENSION OF BOTH THE AID TALKS IN PARIS AND THE DEMINING OF NORTH VIETNAM' S HARBORS. MINH SAID THAT HE IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT AREAS OTHER THAN THE THREE PROVINCES MENTIONED ABOVE. HE BELIEVES THAT IF THE COMMUNISTS DECIDE TO REACT BY STRIKING A BLOW AT THE LOCATIONS THEY BELIEVE VULNERABLE, THE SAIGON RIVER CORRIDOR (IRON TRIANGLE), SOUTHERN TAY NING PROVINCE (HIEU THIEN DISTRICT, AND PERHAPS KHIEM HANH DISTRICT TO THE SOUTHWEST, AND A MOVE MAY BE MADE FROM WAR ZONE " C" TOWARDS TAY NINH CITY), AND PHUOC BINH DISTRICT IN PHUOC LONG

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PROVINCE WOULD BE THE BEST POSSIBLE TARGETS. HE SAID THAT THE LEADERS IN NORTH VIETNAM ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN THE LEADERS HERE: "FACE- SAVING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN LOGIC."

2. HE HAS TAKEN ANOTHER STEP, THE INTENT OF WHICH IS TO BLOCK INFILTRATION FROM WAR ZONE " D". THIS MORNING HE DEPLOYED TWO TEAMS FROM THE 81 ST AIRBORNE TO RANG RANG BASE, 20 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF PHU GIAO DISTRICT, BINH DUONG PROVINCE.

3. I ASKED HIM IF HE WERE CONFIDENT THAT HE COULD COPE WITH A COMMUNIST ATTACK IF THE COMMUNISTS WERE TO DECIDE TO LAUNCH ONE IN RETALIATION TO PRESIDENT NIXON' S DECISION. MINH SAID THAT HE IS NOT WORRIED, THAT HIS TROOPS ARE READY, AND THAT THIS IS WHAT HIS COMMANDERS HAD PREDICTED WOULD HAPPEN. HE EXAMPLED THE HOLDING OF TON LE CHAM AS EVIDENCE OF THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF HIS TROOPS. HE TOLD ME THAT SINCE THIS ENCOUNTER BEGAN, 830 AIR SORTIES HAVE BEEN FLOWN AND THAT THE INTELLIGENCE SHOWS THAT A SIZABLE NUMBER OF COMMUNISTS WERE KILLED AS A RESULT.
WALKINSHAW

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BIENH00084
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BIEN HOA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730446/aaaaisgx.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <07-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980126
Subject: MINH ALERTS ARVN COMMANDERS E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MCAP MOPS VC
TAGS: MCAP, MOPS, VC, n/a
To: BANGKOK
CAN THO
DANANG
EA
NHA TRANG
PHNOM PENH
SAIGON

SECSTATE WASHDC
VIENTIANE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005